



Date Mailed: January 15, 2026

Docket No.: 25-044502

Case No.: [REDACTED]

Petitioner: [REDACTED]

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এটি একটি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ আইনি ডকুমেন্ট। দয়া করে কেউ দস্তাবেজ অনুবাদ করুন।

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Ky është një dokument ligjor i rëndësishëm. Ju lutem, kini dikë ta përktheni dokumentin.

[REDACTED] MI [REDACTED]

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Case No.: [REDACTED]

Petitioner: [REDACTED]

HEARING DECISION

On November 25, 2025, Petitioner Stacey Chatfield requested a hearing to dispute a Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefit overpayment. As a result, a hearing was scheduled to be held on January 13, 2026. Public assistance hearings are held pursuant to MCL 400.9 and 400.37; 7 CFR 273.15 to 273.18; 42 CFR 431.200 to 431.250; 42 CFR 438.400 to 438.424; 45 CFR 99.1 to 99.33; 45 CFR 205.10; and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002.

The parties appeared for the scheduled hearing. Petitioner appeared with her spouse, [REDACTED]. Respondent Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (Department) had Overpayment Establishment Analyst LaRhonda Ellis appear as its representative. There were no other participants.

Both parties provided sworn testimony, and one exhibit was admitted into evidence. A 46-page packet of documents provided by the Department was admitted collectively as Exhibit A.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine that Petitioner owes the Department a debt of \$1,569.00 for Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits that were overpaid to her for the months of June 2024 through August 2024?

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. On February 1, 2024, Petitioner submitted a redetermination to renew her FAP eligibility. In the redetermination, Petitioner reported the following pertinent information:
 - a. The members of Petitioner's household were Petitioner, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED].
 - b. [REDACTED] purchased and prepared food separately from the rest of the household.

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- c. [REDACTED] was receiving \$ [REDACTED] per month in income from Social Security SSI.
 - d. Petitioner was receiving \$ [REDACTED] biweekly from her employment at [REDACTED].
 - e. Petitioner was receiving \$ [REDACTED] per month in child support for [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
 - f. [REDACTED] was receiving \$ [REDACTED] biweekly from his employment at [REDACTED].
2. On February 16, 2024, the Department mailed a notice of case action to Petitioner to notify her that she was approved for FAP benefits. The notice informed Petitioner that she was approved for a FAP benefit amount of \$509.00 per month for a group size of six (Petitioner, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]), effective March 1, 2024. The notice of case action stated that Petitioner's FAP eligibility was determined based on the following information:
 - a. Earned income of \$ [REDACTED] per month
 - b. Unearned income of \$ [REDACTED] per month
 - c. Standard deduction of \$ [REDACTED] per month
 - d. Housing costs of \$1,000.00 per month
 - e. Telephone standard of \$31.00 per month
 3. The notice of case action instructed Petitioner to monitor her monthly gross household income and notify the Department if it exceeded the simplified reporting limit of \$4,364.00 in a month.
 4. In April 2024, [REDACTED] began receiving income from employment at [REDACTED].
 5. In May 2024, Petitioner began receiving income from employment at [REDACTED].
 6. The Department received new hire alerts that notified the Department that [REDACTED] and Petitioner obtained employment at [REDACTED], and the Department did not properly process the new hire alerts.
 7. Petitioner received the following gross weekly paychecks from [REDACTED]:
 - a. April 12, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]
 - b. April 26, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]

c. May 10, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]

d. May 24, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]

8. Petitioner received the following gross weekly paychecks from [REDACTED]:

a. May 9, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]

b. May 16, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]

c. May 23, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]

d. May 30, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]

e. June 6, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]

f. June 13, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]

g. June 20, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]

h. June 27, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]

i. July 3, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]

j. July 11, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]

k. July 18, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]

l. July 25, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]

m. August 1, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]

n. August 8, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]

o. August 15, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]

p. August 22, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]

q. August 29, 2024, paid [REDACTED]

9. [REDACTED] received the following gross weekly paychecks from [REDACTED]:

a. April 18, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]

b. April 25, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]

c. May 2, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]

- d. May 9, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]
- e. May 16, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]
- f. May 23, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]
- g. May 30, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]
- h. June 6, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]
- i. June 13, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]
- j. June 20, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]
- k. June 27, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]
- l. July 3, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]
- m. July 11, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]
- n. July 18, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]
- o. July 25, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]
- p. August 1, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]
- q. August 8, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]
- r. August 15, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]
- s. August 22, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]
- t. August 29, 2024, paid \$ [REDACTED]

10. Petitioner did not notify the Department when her monthly gross household income began exceeding the simplified reporting limit of \$4,364.00 in April 2024, and the Department was otherwise unaware that Petitioner's monthly gross household income began exceeding the simplified reporting limit in April 2024, so the Department continued to issue FAP benefits to Petitioner as if her monthly gross household income had not changed.

11. The Department issued the following FAP benefits to Petitioner:

- a. \$509.00 for June 2024
- b. \$526.00 for July 2024
- c. \$534.00 for August 2024

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12. Subsequently, the Department discovered that Petitioner had unreported income, and the Department discovered that it did not properly process the new hire alerts.
 13. The Department reviewed Petitioner's case, and the Department determined that it overpaid Petitioner \$1,569.00 in FAP benefits for the months of June 2024 through August 2024 due to the Department's error.
 14. On November 13, 2025, the Department mailed a notice of overissuance to Petitioner to notify her that the Department overpaid her \$1,569.00 in FAP benefits for the months of June 2024 through August 2024.
 15. Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute the overpayment.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Department policies are contained in the Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), Department of Health and Human Services Reference Tables Manual (RFT), and Department of Health and Human Services Emergency Relief Manual (ERM).

The Food Assistance Program (FAP) is established by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, 7 USC 2011 to 2036a and is implemented by the federal regulations contained in 7 CFR 273. The Department administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10, the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001-.3011.

In this case, the Department determined that it overpaid Petitioner \$1,569.00 in FAP benefits for the months of June 2024 through August 2024. When a client receives more benefits than she was entitled to receive, the Department must attempt to recoup the overpayment. BAM 700 (June 1, 2024), p. 1. The overpayment amount is the amount of benefits in excess of the amount the client was eligible to receive. *Id.* at 2.

The Department determined that it overpaid Petitioner because the Department did not properly budget Petitioner's earned income from [REDACTED], and the Department did not properly budget [REDACTED] earned income from [REDACTED]. The Department acknowledged that the overpayment was due to the Department's error. The Department properly determined that the first month that was affected by the Department's error was June 2024. Petitioner was a simplified reporter, and the first month of overpayment is two months after the actual monthly household income exceeded the simplified reporting limit. BAM 715 (June 1, 2024), p. 4. Petitioner's gross household income first exceeded the simplified reporting limit in April 2024, so June 2024 was the first month of overpayment.

In June 2024, Petitioner received gross earnings of \$ [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] received gross earnings of \$ [REDACTED]. The Department is required to convert actual earnings to a standard monthly amount when determining a FAP overpayment that was

caused by the Department's error. BAM 705 (June 1, 2024), p. 6. Petitioner and [REDACTED] were paid weekly. Petitioner's average weekly gross earnings were \$ [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] average weekly gross earnings were \$ [REDACTED]. Weekly earnings are multiplied by 4.3 to convert them to a standard amount. BEM 505 (June 1, 2025), pp. 8-9. Thus, Petitioner's gross earnings for the month were \$ [REDACTED] (rounded down), and [REDACTED] gross earnings for the month were \$ [REDACTED]. Therefore, Petitioner's total gross household earnings were \$ [REDACTED] for the month. Petitioner's household also received \$ [REDACTED] for [REDACTED] SSI. Thus, Petitioner's total gross household income was \$ [REDACTED] for the month. The income limit for a group size of six to receive FAP benefits was \$7,192.00. RFT 250 (October 1, 2025). Petitioner's household income exceeded the income limit, so Petitioner was ineligible for FAP benefits for the month. The Department issued Petitioner \$509.00 in FAP benefits, and Petitioner was ineligible to receive FAP benefits, so the Department overpaid Petitioner \$509.00.

In July 2024, Petitioner received gross earnings of \$ [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] received gross earnings of \$ [REDACTED]. The Department is required to convert actual earnings to a standard monthly amount when determining a FAP overpayment that was caused by the Department's error. BAM 705 at 6. Petitioner and [REDACTED] were paid weekly. Petitioner's average weekly gross earnings were \$ [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] average weekly gross earnings were \$ [REDACTED]. Weekly earnings are multiplied by 4.3 to convert them to a standard amount. BEM 505 at 8-9. Thus, Petitioner's gross earnings for the month were \$ [REDACTED] (rounded down), and [REDACTED] gross earnings for the month were \$ [REDACTED]. Therefore, Petitioner's total gross household earnings were \$ [REDACTED] for the month. Petitioner's household also received \$ [REDACTED] for [REDACTED] SSI. Thus, Petitioner's total gross household income was \$ [REDACTED] for the month. The income limit for a group size of six to receive FAP benefits was \$7,192.00. RFT 250. Petitioner's household income exceeded the income limit, so Petitioner was ineligible for FAP benefits for the month. The Department issued Petitioner \$526.00 in FAP benefits, and Petitioner was ineligible to receive FAP benefits, so the Department overpaid Petitioner \$526.00.

In August 2024, Petitioner received gross earnings of \$ [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] received gross earnings of \$ [REDACTED]. The Department is required to convert actual earnings to a standard monthly amount when determining a FAP overpayment that was caused by the Department's error. BAM 705 at 6. Petitioner and [REDACTED] were paid weekly. Petitioner's average weekly gross earnings were \$ [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] average weekly gross earnings were \$ [REDACTED]. Weekly earnings are multiplied by 4.3 to convert them to a standard amount. BEM 505 at 8-9. Thus, Petitioner's gross earnings for the month were \$ [REDACTED] (rounded down), and [REDACTED] gross earnings for the month were \$ [REDACTED] (rounded down). Therefore, Petitioner's total gross household earnings were \$ [REDACTED] for the month. Petitioner's household also received \$ [REDACTED] for [REDACTED] SSI. Thus, Petitioner's total gross household income was \$ [REDACTED] for the month. The income limit for a group size of six to receive FAP benefits was \$7,192.00. RFT 250. Petitioner's household income

exceeded the income limit, so Petitioner was ineligible for FAP benefits for the month. The Department issued Petitioner \$534.00 in FAP benefits, and Petitioner was ineligible to receive FAP benefits, so the Department overpaid Petitioner \$534.00.

The Department properly determined that it overpaid Petitioner \$1,569.00 in FAP benefits. Although this overpayment was caused by the Department's error, the Department was still required to pursue Petitioner for the overpayment. A FAP overpayment that results from the Department's error must be pursued by the Department when the amount is greater than or equal to \$250.00. BAM 700 at 5 and BAM 705 at 1. The amount of the overpayment was greater than or equal to \$250.00. Thus, although Petitioner received an overpayment due to the Department's error, the Department acted in accordance with its policies when it pursued the overpayment.

Petitioner asserted that the Department should not have considered ████████ SSI when the Department determined the overpayment because ████████ moved out of Petitioner's home in April 2024. Petitioner received FAP benefits for ████████ for the months involved, and Petitioner did not present sufficient evidence to establish that she notified the Department when ████████ moved out in April 2024, so the Department properly considered Dawson's SSI when the Department determined the overpayment.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds that the Department acted in accordance with its policies and the applicable law when it determined that it overpaid Petitioner \$1,569.00 in FAP benefits for the months of June 2024 through August 2024.

IT IS ORDERED that the Department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.



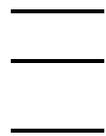
JEFFREY KEMM
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

APPEAL RIGHTS: Petitioner may appeal this Hearing Decision to the circuit court. Rules for appeals to the circuit court can be found in the Michigan Court Rules (MCR), including MCR 7.101 to MCR 7.123, available at the Michigan Courts website at courts.michigan.gov. The Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules (MOAHR) cannot provide legal advice, but assistance may be available through the State Bar of Michigan at <https://lrs.michbar.org> or Michigan Legal Help at <https://michiganlegalhelp.org>. A copy of the circuit court appeal should be sent to MOAHR. A circuit court appeal may result in a reversal of the Hearing Decision.

Either party who disagrees with this Hearing Decision may also send a written request for a rehearing and/or reconsideration to MOAHR within 30 days of the mailing date of this Hearing Decision. The request should include Petitioner's name, the docket number from page 1 of this Hearing Decision, an explanation of the specific reasons for the request, and any documents supporting the request. The request should be sent to MOAHR

- by email to MOAHR-BSD-Support@michigan.gov, **OR**
- by fax at (517) 763-0155, **OR**
- by mail addressed to
Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules
Rehearing/Reconsideration Request
P.O. Box 30639
Lansing Michigan 48909-8139

Documents sent via email are not secure and can be faxed or mailed to avoid any potential risks. Requests MOAHR receives more than 30 days from the mailing date of this Hearing Decision may be considered untimely and dismissed.



Via Electronic Mail:

Respondent

BAY COUNTY DHHS
1399 W CENTER RD
ESSEXVILLE, MI 48732
MDHHS-BAY-HEARINGS@MICHIGAN.GOV

Agency Representative

LARHONDA ELLIS
OVERPAYMENT ESTABLISHMENT SECTION (OES)
235 S GRAND AVE STE 811
LANSING, MI 48933
MDHHS-RECOUPMENT-HEARINGS@MICHIGAN.GOV

Via First Class Mail:

Petitioner

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] MI [REDACTED]